

## CLAIMS

1. Support material coated on at least one side with a synthetic resin, containing a raw paper provided at least on the front side with a pigment coating, characterized in that the pigment coating contains at least about 5 % by weight of a pigment with a narrow grain distribution, whereby at least about 70 % of these pigment particles feature a size of less than about 1  $\mu\text{m}$  and at least 40 % by weight of these particles feature a grain size of 0.35 to 0.8  $\mu\text{m}$ , whereby the resin coating is applied at least on the pigment coating.
2. Support material according to claim 1, characterized in that the pigment is a calcium carbonate.
3. Support material according to claim 1, characterized in that the coating contains a pigment mixture which contains at least about 30 % by weight clay.
4. Support material according to one of the claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the application weight of the coating amounts to a maximum of about 20  $\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ .
5. Support material according to one of the claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the raw paper is a slightly compressed paper with a density of less than about 1  $\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$ .
6. Support material coated at least on one side with a synthetic resin containing a raw paper having pigment coating at least on the front side, characterized in

that the pigment coating includes a structured calcium carbonate

7. Support material according to claim 6, characterized in that the calcium carbonate provides a surface modified with a plate like inorganic substance.
8. Support material according to claim 6 or 7 characterized in that the amount of the pigment is at least about 5 % wt based on the total pigment amount.
9. Support material according to claim 6, characterized in that the pigment coating includes a pigment mixture comprising at least about 30 % wt clay.
10. Support material according to one of the claims 1 to 10, characterized in that the application weight of the coating amounts to a maximum of about 20 g/m<sup>2</sup>.
11. Process for the manufacture of a support material coated on at least one side with a synthetic resin, containing a raw paper provided at least on the front side with a pigment coating, characterized in that the coating containing at least one pigment is applied on the front side of a raw paper, and the pigment features a narrow grain size distribution, that the pigment coating contains at least about 5 % by weight of a pigment with a narrow grain distribution, whereby at least about 70 % of these pigment particles feature a size of less than about 1  $\mu$ m, and at least 40 % by weight of these particles feature a grain size of 0.35 and 0.8  $\mu$ m, and a synthetic resin is applied at least on the pigment, coating by extrusion, at a speed of up to 600 m/min.

12. Process according to claim 11, characterized in that the synthetic resin is extruded onto the pigment coating of the raw paper at a speed of 350 to 600 m/min.
13. Process according to claim 12, characterized in that the coating of the raw paper is applied in two stages in such a way that first a preliminary layer containing pigment is first applied with an application weight of up to about 20 g/m<sup>2</sup> onto the raw paper, and then a coating containing a pigment with a narrow grain size distribution is applied, in which about 50 % of the pigment particles feature a diameter of 0.7 µm.
14. Use of a support material according to one of claims 1 to 10 as a photographic support material.
15. Use of a support material according to one of the claims 1 to 10 as a support material for an ink-jet recording material.
16. Use of a support material according to one of claims 1 to 10 as a support material for a thermal recording material.